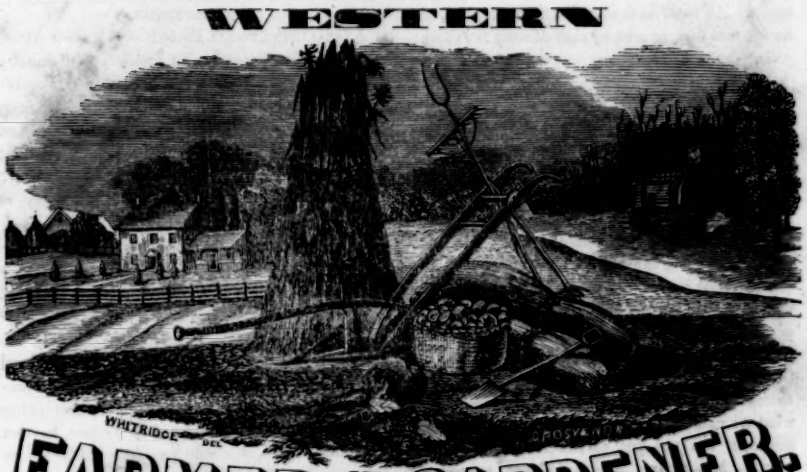


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EDITED BY
HENRY WARD BEECHER, Indianapolis,
EDWARD J. HOOPER, Cincinnati, Ohio.

S. V. B. NOEL, *Publisher and Printer.*

WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENER.

INDIANAPOLIS, THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1846.

## NEW ARRANGEMENT.

The AMERICAN FARMER, begun at Baltimore in 1819, was the *first* agricultural paper in the United States. It completed fifteen volumes; and in 1834, was succeeded by the FARMER AND GARDENER, the original title from which there have been so many patronymics.

These changes have been similarly acted over at the West. Mr. E. J. Hooper, we believe, issued one volume of the WESTERN FARMER in 1839. In 1840 the title was changed to WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENER; and the paper was continued until the summer of 1845, when it was temporarily suspended on account of the health of its editor.

The INDIANA *Farmer and Gardener* was issued at the beginning of the year 1845. The name of the State was affixed, both to indicate its locality, and to distinguish our paper from the (eastern,) FARMER AND GARDENER, at Baltimore, and from the WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENER, at Cincinnati. Another change has now been completed. Our friend, Mr. Hooper, has suddenly found himself in the lap of fortune; and his golden cares (strange cares for an editor!) have waxed apace. Desirous of diminishing his labors as an editor, without abandoning the field where he has so long and so successfully toiled, an arrangement has been made to unite the INDIANA, and the WESTERN Farmer and Gardener. Hereafter, the paper will be published at Indianapolis; and issued simultaneously at Cincinnati and at Indianapolis.

It was the desire of many friends, that we should retain the title INDIANA FARMER AND GARDENER; but as the paper is no longer merely a state paper, and enters upon a larger field, it would seem but proper to prefix a title as comprehensive as that field. If the readers of the *Indiana* Farmer and Gardener perceive an improvement in the current volume, they may consider themselves indebted to Mr. Hooper, whose practiced pen is still to enrich the editorial department. But for its faults, the Indianapolis editor must submit to be responsible; as the more particular and immediate charge of the paper has been, in this arrangement, committed to him.

This new arrangement will account to our subscribers for the non-appearance of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener on the first of December.

☞ *The publication office of the* WESTERN FARMER AND GARDENER, *in Cincinnati, is at Huxley & Co's., Fifth street, near the Denison House.*

☞ MR. E. J. HOOPER, *will attend, at the Cincinnati Publication Office, to all business which may be more conveniently transacted there than at Indian-*

*apolis. All contributions, advertisements, &c., may be left with him, or sent by mail directly to Indianapolis.*

## TERMS.

We invariably require cash in advance. There is no agricultural paper in the Union so cheap, we believe, as the Western Farmer and Gardener. It is only by prompt payments and a large subscription that we expect to sustain it permanently. Our own ambition is sufficiently aroused to make it worthy of the interests which it regards. Every material extension of its circulation will be followed by a corresponding effort to improve the paper. If the friends of an intelligent and improved agriculture, the lovers of a garden, and those solicitous for common schools will exert themselves to extend its circulation, we will do what we can to see that their recommendations of the paper are not put to shame. We mention schools, because we design to urge, sedulously, the cause of general education as the privilege and duty of the laborer.

☞ Under our new arrangement, it is our purpose to present our readers with such ornamental and illustrative engravings as may be within our means. At the same time we are free to say, that we wish our paper to stand before the community on the merit of its matter, and not for the number or beauty of its pictures.

☞ Any person who will send us ten subscribers, with the cash, shall be entitled to his own copy *gratis*.

☞ Will not some enterprising farmer or horticulturist do his neighbors the kindness to procure their subscription to the Farmer and Gardener? While we are gratified by numerous subscriptions out of our state, ought not the citizens of Indiana and Ohio to endeavor to support a paper of their own?

☞ We have now good long winter nights for reading and writing. Will not some of our many readers repay the pleasure which they receive, by writing something for the profit of others?

☞ Ask Questions. Thousands of questions occur every year to farmers, an answer to which would be profitable. *Put them down as they occur to you.* Send them up, and we will see that they are answered.

☞ We should be pleased to see upon our books, for this volume, all the names registered for the first. Let any one put his twenty-four numbers together, and ask if the price was not cheap enough for 400 large pages of instructive reading?

## COLLECTIONS.

A Challenge to all Pigdom.—Claudius Allen, Cheshire, Ct., states in an article in the Albany Cultivator, that he has a sow which has had *seventy-nine* live pigs in *five* litters; fourteen at the first; fifteen at the second; sixteen at the third; eighteen at the fourth; and sixteen at the fifth! Fifty-eight of these she raised. Now if any Hoosier has any thing to tell better than this, we are ready to hear it.

First Importation of Spanish Merino Sheep. We condense from the same paper, an amusing account of the fate of the *first* merinos imported from Spain. Hon. Wm. Foster, in 1793, smuggled three from that country—the penalty for taking them out of the nation being severe—and brought them safely to Boston. They were presented to a Mr. Cragie of Cambridge. Returning from a fifteen years' residence in France, he met the same Cragie at a sale paying a $1000 apiece for merinos. He asked what had become of those presented to him. He answered, very innocently, *that he ate them!*

Hot Brine for Pork.—The October number of the Albany Cultivator contains an account of a novel method of curing pork; after it is cut and packed in the barrel, the brine is prepared, and poured on *boiling hot*. In the November number a Mr. Elitharp of Bridgeport, Vt., states that he has employed this method both for pork and *hams*. It makes the pork brittle and gives fine flavor and tenderness to the hams; keeping them sweet the year round. He adds "it is almost universally practiced in my neighborhood with the best results."

Agricultural Warehouses.—As many of our readers may desire to order things from the east, we will mention several establishments, with which, we think, business may be entrusted with the utmost confidence. *Boston*, Messrs. J. Breck & Co.; *Albany*, N. Y., Tucker & Comstock. *New York City*, A. B. Allen.

Black Weevil.—We had conversation recently, at Madison, with a miller, who stated that the black weevil has been extremely prevalent in the southern counties of Indiana, obliging farmers who would have wished to hold on to their wheat to sell at once. In Kentucky it is said to have been even more destructive, and in the southern portions has destroyed whole crops.

A Scene at a Railroad Office.—While waiting for the cars, in came a man with a huge armful of evergreen trees. "Will frost hurt my trees, they laid out last night?" "If the roots were securely covered there'll be no harm, for the tops are tough enough." "Well, the roots are bare."

"Then your trees are good for nothing; nothing is easier to live than evergreens if you give them root enough and keep the roots moist; and nothing is surer to die if you neglect to do this." "I wish I had known that before." So we record the conversation, that all who read may know it beforehand; for it is a good deal pleasanter to learn the fact from paper, than from experience.

TRADE IN BIRDS.—We were surprised to learn, from a young man who was returning from Louisville, with piles of empty baskets, what quantities of quails were sent to market. He had just carried some forty dozen. In the winter of 1844, *eighteen hundred dozen* (21,600) quails were carried from Bartholomew and Decatur counties through the agency of one company! There were forty men in the concern who netted them, and sold them to my informant for thirty-seven and a half cents per dozen; they averaged in Louisville eighty-seven cents. Last winter, being open and dry, was peculiarly favorable. The supply this year is not so abundant, the rains about harvest seriously affecting the hatching.

*Netting* birds is familiar to western folks; but our eastern readers may need an explanation. The net is strained over a frame stuck into the ground; it is the largest at the opening and diminishes to a point at the termination. Wings run out from the opening in an oblique manner, to direct the flock to the fatal aperture. Mounted on horseback, in a damp or drizzly day, the thin woods or fields where the birds abound are searched. As soon as a flock is descried, the net is instantly set and the birds gently driven towards it. They will permit a horseman to drive them almost with the docility of a flock of sheep.

## BALLS IN THE STOMACH OF CATTLE.

Our attention was called to some extraordinary facts which occurred at Madison, in this State. We took pains to investigate the matter, and the facts stated may be entirely relied upon.

It was the practice of Mr. Godfrey to spread the bristles obtained during the hog-killing seasons, upon an open common, for the sake of cleansing and preparing them for market. Cattle which pastured during the ensuing seasons on this common, were liable to disease and death; as many as eight or ten having died. Upon dissection, their stomachs were found to contain balls of bristles, worked together, or *felted*, so as to be compact and very hard. Mr. Bonner, a miller at Page's steam mill, says that he found *fourteen* in one cow that died, the largest being nearly five inches in diameter. They would more than fill a peck measure. I conversed with several gentlemen who had been present at the opening of cows and cattle, and had found similar balls. I obtained a half of one, cut in two by Mr. Bonner, and it may be seen, by any who are curious in such matters, at the Farmer and Gardener office. It is a compact mass of hog's bristles worked together in the firmest manner. These balls produce, at length, in cattle, violent inflammation and death, under circumstances of great suffering.

I procured also half of a ball taken from the stomach of a calf. It appears as if very fine fur and cotton wool had been *felted* together. Concentric rings are plainly discoverable, shewing that the accretions took place at different times. It is between three and four inches in diameter and very solid.

While tracing out the facts in this matter, I met a Mr. George Fearn, of Trimble co., Ky., who informed me that he had lost ten head of cattle by a similar affection. His hogs had chewed cornstalks and spit out the fibrous rind after the pulp was extracted. These refuse cuds were eaten by his stock, and after their death, were found wadded together in the stomach in irregularly shaped and hard masses, and, of a smaller size, in the *manyfolds*. Mr. Fearn thinks that tow or cotton will also produce such balls in cattle.

The negroes in Kentucky are exceedingly superstitious in regard to these hair balls. Nothing will induce them to touch one, or even to go near it. They suppose that witches shoot them into cattle.

Since the practice of bleaching bristles has, for a year or two past, been discontinued, at Madison, no more cases have occurred. We should be glad to receive any farther information in the possession of any of our readers.

P. S. Since writing the above, a medical friend has put into our hands a notice, of similar affections, from an European work, which we shall publish in our next.

## EVANGELICAL DISTILLERY.

SUED FOR LIBEL.—Mr. Comegys, of Lawrenceburgh, has commenced a suit against the editors of the Greensburgh Repository, laying his damages at five thousand dollars.—*Indiana Blade.*

That's right. We know of no person on earth who can so ill afford to lose his character as a Christian distiller. Five thousand dollars' worth of character lost, would make quite a hole in any distiller's character; but in a Christian distiller's not so bad a breach, we hope, as in an ungodly, impenitent distiller's case. Had the Repository known that whiskey was made upon Christian principles at the establishment whose pious owner he slandered, he would doubtless have deliberated

long before uttering his aspersions. *Carnal* whiskey is a dangerous article. But *consecrated* whiskey, brought over from the still amid prayers and hymns, and put up in holy barrels and sent forth with a heavenly-minded aspiration for its usefulness—this is another affair. We regret to say that the other distillery in Lawrenceburgh is in an awful way. We fear that there is neither prayer nor religious exercises of any kind, about it.

We hope our friend will not allow these spiteful efforts to deter him from his effort to reform distilleries and put them on a Christian footing. We have too much faith in the moral sense of the community to believe that they will, on any account, suffer the character of a Christian distiller to leave him. It will stick to him closer than a brother. In sober earnest, we believe that it will stand by him in death; and he will have to stand by it in the judgment day; and, peradventure, a time will come when he would give, not $5000 to recover his character, but as many worlds to get rid of it!

## CARE OF ANIMALS IN WINTER.

The wisest man has said that "the righteous man regardeth the life of his beast; but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel." If any one is at a loss to know the meaning of the latter part, he cannot have made good use of his eyes. Lean cattle, leaner horses, anatomical specimens of cows, half fed, dirty, drenched by every rain, and pierced by every winter wind, these are an excellent comment on the passage.

It is time for every merciful man to make provision for every dumb animal which is dependent upon him.

*Cows* should be provided with a comfortable stable at night. No feeding will be a substitute for good shelter. Both the quantity and quality of the milk will depend upon bodily comfort in respect to warmth and nutritious food. Such as are becoming heavy with calf should be specially cared for. Many farmers let their cows shift for themselves as soon as their milk dries away. But the health of the coming calf and the ability of the cow to supply it, and her owner, copiously with milk depends on the condition in which she is kept during the period of gestation.

*Cattle* should have a good shed provided for them, under which they may be dry and sheltered from winds. It is the curse of western farming that cattle and fodder are so plenty that it is hardly a loss to waste both.

Where the amount of stock is too great for comfortable home quarters, and they are wintered in a stock field, there should be places of resort for them, so high as to remain dry, well turfed with blue-grass, and sheltered with cheap sheds, or by belts of forest.

*Sheep* should receive special attention. They abhor wet. They should be permitted to keep their fleece dry, and to eat their food in a dry stable. The flock should be sorted. The bucks and wethers by themselves, the ewes by themselves; lambs and weak sheep in another division; and a fourth compartment should never be wanting for the sick, where they may be nursed and medically treated.

*Horses* are more apt to be taken care of than cattle. But even they are often more indebted for existence to a stubborn tenacity of life, than to the care of their keepers. The horse is a more dainty feeder than ruminating animals. He should be supplied with a better article of hay; his grain should never be dirty or musty.

Hardy farm-horses may even rough out the winter without blanketing or any other care than is necessary to supply good food and enough of it. But carriage horses, and those highly prized for the saddle—aristocratic horses—should be more carefully groomed. It is not wise to blanket a horse at all, unless it can be *always* done. If he is liable to change hands; to be off on journeys under circumstances in which he cannot be blanketed at night, it will be better not to begin it.

Winter is a good time to kill off spirited horses. They are easily run down by a smashing sleigh-ride pace. Boys and girls, buzzing in a double sleigh like a hive of bees, think that the horses enjoy themselves, at the exhilarating pace of six or eight miles an hour, as much as *they* do. But this is not ordinarily the worst of it. The horse stands out, after a trip of ten or fifteen miles, at a post for an hour or two until thoroughly chilled; then home he races, and goes into the stable, steaming with sweat, to stand without blankets all night. Horses catch cold as much as men do. And a horse-cold is just as bad as human cold. As there has been some difficulty, in the construction of fanning mills, to gain a strong enough current of wind, we would advise the builders of them to study the construction of a right Hoosier stable.

## THE POTATO ROT.

We do not remember another instance in the vegetable kingdom of a species attacked with disease all over the world, almost simultaneously, as the potato has been. The devastation has become excessive; and, in those countries where it forms an important part of the food of the laboring classes, this malignant malady threatens the greatest suffering. Much as has been written, it cannot be

said that either the cause or remedy is ascertained. Several distinguished philosophers, at home and abroad, agree in tracing the rot to a species of fungus: and we supposed the fact to be ascertained. But a late English paper says "our best microscopic cryptogamists are divided in opinion as to whether the cause of the calamity is a fungus or not." Professor J. W. Johnston says, "We are clearly unable as yet to assign local or any general cause for the disease, or any universal remedy." It was, early in the season, supposed that Ireland had escaped. But upon digging the crop it is found to be extensively affected. In America, the loss of this, indeed the loss of any one crop, can only be a temporary and pecuniary loss; but in Europe it breeds famine and all its miseries.

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### FARMERS' AND GARDENERS' LIBRARY.

We propose to make out a list of books relating to all the interests of the farm and the garden; and to accompany the list with some descriptive remarks upon each work. It is of the highest importance that farmers should possess *reading habits;* and that they should bring up their children to a love of books. Every farmer should have a library; it may, at first, be small; but it should be select. As soon as a farmer is beforehand enough to own an acre, he is prosperous enough to begin a library. It is said by many, *books wont make money.* Yes they will. To-be-sure, their best effect is the production of intelligence in the reader; but a man well informed in his own business is just the man to make money. Who ever thought of making money by buying grindstones and whetstones? But they sharpen the scythe, the sickle, and the axe, and *they* produce money. Books are grindstones and whetstones for a man's mind. In this number we shall give a list of

Books which treat of Animals.

1. Stewart's Stable Economy.—*A treatise on the management of horses in relation to stabling, grooming, feeding, watering, and working*; published by Appleton & Co., N. York. Price $1.25.

Many are willing to buy a treatise upon the diseases of the horse, but here is one which will *prevent* most of the evils which affect this noble animal. It is a masterly and thorough work upon the management of the horse in every situation and for all the variety of uses to which he is ever put. In the west, the horse is used, in town and country, by almost every man. But very few profess to know how he should be treated! And, of those who think they are wise, how many have any knowledge except of a few nostrums for sickness? The horse, in man's service, is living in an entirely artificial state. He takes care of himself if left wild. But living in stables, laboring every month of the year in harness, and under the saddle, not selecting his own food, but fed at the will of his master, his own instincts become of little use, and he is dependent entirely on the mercy and knowledge of those whose slave he is. It ought not to be thought unreasonable to say that every man who is willing to *own* a horse, ought to be willing to know how to *manage* him, in the stable and out of it. There is no work in the English language containing more, or better instructions than Stewart's Economy. It should be read by the farmer; and just as much by every man, of whatever calling, who uses a horse, or owns one. It is of standard authority in England. Mr. Stewart has long been a professor in veterinary institutes; and we have, in another column, extracted an account of such colleges from the tour of Mr. Colman.

2. Every Man his own Farrier, *by John Clater, containing the causes, symptoms, and most approved methods of cure of the diseases of horses.*—This is an English work of the highest reputation; as is shewn from the fact that it has passed through *twenty-eight* editions. The American edition is edited by J. S. Skinner, now editor of the Farmers' Library. This work should be a companion to the Stable Economy. Every man ought to know how to treat a sick horse. Suppose a horse to be taken sick on a journey; most frequently the driver is the only one at hand to prescribe. If you are at a tavern, of what use, generally speaking, are the bragging pretensions of those that crowd around you? Stopping for a night at a wretched hole of a tavern, one of my horses, at night fell sick. I knew no more than a child what to do; the landlord (ah me! I shall never forget him!) was equally ignorant and much more indifferent. A big, bragging, English booby was the only one pretending to know what to do; and to him I yielded the animal. After sundry manipulations—punching him in the loins; pulling at his ears, &c.—he rolled up a wad of *hair from his tail,* and crammed it down the horse's throat! presuming, I suppose, that the hair would find its way back to the place it came from, and so pilot the disease out! I inwardly resolved never to go another journey until in possession of the best remedies for the attacks common to horses on the road.

3. Skinner's Cattle Doctor.—We have never seen this work; and can only state that it has a reputation at the east. If other information is wished in respect to stock, *Youatt*, on Cattle, and the back volumes of the *American Agriculturist*

will afford, we suppose, the best that can be had.

4. Swine.—We know of no scientific treatise upon these interesting quadrupeds—these four-legged land-whales. Much information in respect to the different improved breeds may be found in the back volumes of the *Western Farmer and Gardener*.

5. Morrell's American Shepherd is the best work upon sheep that has come to our knowledge. The author says he set out to make a 'strong book.' We certainly should recommend it before all others for general use. Prairie farmers should not fail to have, along with this, the *Western Shepherd*, by our correspondent, George Flower; it is an invaluable treatise.

6. Bement's Poulterer's Companion, is the best work on the whole matter of raising fowls.

7. Affleck's Bee Manual, among the hundred of treatises on this subject, may be selected as full, judicious, and correct.

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## NEAT DRESSING IS NOT CLEAN HOUSE-KEEPING.

Having often met Mrs. Pink in society, I thought her the neatest woman in the world; and probably should have always thought so if I had not, very strangely, had access to her house. For, once, when I had praised the good woman, a mischievous girl whispered just loud enough to be heard (exactly as if she was trying to keep it secret,—cunning rogue!) "he ought to see her at home, if he wants to know what neatness is." This ran in my head, and stirred up a host of busy fancies, and wondering thoughts. "Well, I do wish I could slip in sometime, unexpectedly, and see if this fair shew is a pretty piece of domestic imposture!"

Who knows what is before him? My wishes were gratified. For, that very night, I dreamed; and Mrs. Pink was the heroine of my dream. By that amazing power given unto dreams, I found myself the husband of Mrs. Pink—the very Mr. Pink himself. Methought, my lady had gone out to spend an evening; and after sleepily reading a paper for awhile, I retired to rest. Entering the room, there lay a stocking sprawled out at full length on the floor, its mate coiled up into a dump by its side, just as it was turned off the foot. In the middle of the room stood a stack of underclothes, just as they had been stepped out of. Several pairs of shoes and several widowed ones, who long had mourned the loss of a companion, and had, for grief doubtless, much run down at the heel, were sprinkled around the room promiscuously. The wash-basin, its contents creamed over with soap, stood in a chair; the towel lying half in it, the soap on the floor with a coat of dust be-feathering it. The wash-stand was covered with ends of candles, open and evacuated snuffers, scraps of fancy soap, a case knife, a roll of brimstone, two tooth-brushes colored with powder, the one red, the other black; a shoe-brush, a snarl of black braid for shoe-strings, half a dozen empty perfume bottles, and a bible. The bureau was as much beyond the wash-stand in condition as in original size. Every drawer but one was open in different degrees, like Peel's sliding-scale of tariff. If Homer asked help of the gods when beginning his epic, how much more should I? He had only a city to describe, with a few armies, and the geography of earth and heaven; but I have a lady's bureau and all its drawers! The cloth, designed to cover and protect it from all scratches, had certainly been used for a towel at each corner, for there were the finger-prints. A pair of curls, several unmanufactured wads of vagrant hair, an upset box of tooth powder, two dispersed squadrons of pins—the one sort mere light infantry, the other full-grown dragoon pins—hair brushes, one, two, three, two long combs, one fine comb so old as to have lost many of its teeth, and to have turned quite *grey;* pomatum, oils, uncorked *cologne, mille-fleur, lavender, patchouli, verveine,* and a host besides; wristlets, hair-bands, ruffles, laces, lockets, rings, thimbles, elongated hair-pins, side-combs, back-combs, refuse curl-papers, a pair of curling-tongs laid down too hot and making the cloth to blush brown under them; a bundle of tracts, several notes and billet-doux, seals, wax, unrolled and unrolling spools of thread, several skeins of silk snarled and unsnarlable, a crushed cap or two, sundry ribbons, an odd volume of Hannah More's works, the constitution of a maternal society, gloves a score, black, white, yellow, blue, and brown—and all this just on the top, for the drawers are yet to come! A tempest had evidently been dealing with these lower depths; for they were stirred up from the bottom. When, in dressing in hot haste, a collar had been sought, the sweet Mrs. Pink, beginning at one side, forced down to the other end each article which was not the one sought for; and then, returning, pawed them all down to the *other* side. Going to the next drawer, the ceremony was repeated. Some of the drawers were emptied into others; and then the contents put back by the handful and kneaded down to their proper compactness. Once, the candle--which was in a "melting mood,"—was overturned into a heap of fine linens, but the mischief was effaced by shoving the ill-fated things, in disgrace, far back into the drawer and deep under many companions. Many things were torn open to see if something else was not in them. Stockings were unrolled and left; or a cot-

ton and silk one rolled up together, a black one and a white. Thus much for the bureau; but it is only a hint and not a full description. My coats and overcoat, overhauled daily to see if a stray dress or underdress had not hid itself among them, were well broken to ground and lofty tumbling; and were becoming quite fledged with lint and feathers.

Out of such a chaos, Mrs. Pink would come forth the sweetest looking creature and the best dressed woman in town, *when she was going into company!* How came she forth when only entering her own family? With hair spreading in different directions, with a be-stained and dirty dress, half hooked and half pinned with pins black and white, and with one of the backs of her dress an inch higher than the other; the skirt ripped out of the gatherings in spots; an apron tied on askew, ill-mated shoes, and no neck handkerchief at all—for, if the air is chilly when stepping out of doors, the apron is drawn around the neck. Oh what a waking was mine, when morning broke up the dream, and divorced me from Mrs. Pink! Really, I do not suppose such a person ever lived, or was thought of except in a dream. If it *ever were* true, out of dreams, I do not think that husbands would respect their wives; honey-moons would wane, men would not love their homes, things would go at sixes and sevens, young married couples would grow very indifferent to each other, wives would complain that husbands did not care for them, husbands would mutter something about being "taken in," both would learn to say: "I *remember* the time, Mr. Pink, when you would not have treated me so." "And I, Mrs. Pink, remember the time when you did not *look* so." "Well, my dear, whose fault is it, when I have no body here at home half the time to care how I look?" "Well, love, who wants to wade knee deep in dirt, and call that home?" "Well sir, you are a proper man to talk about dirt—you are *so* neat yourself; pray, sir, do give me a lecture; *do* shew me how to keep things neat; could'nt you write a little book about it? it would be very nice, Mr. Pink!—neat Mr. Pink!!—charming Mr. Pink!!!"

But as such things never happen, there is no use in writing any more about them.

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## LOMBARDY POPLARS.

At a late meeting of the American Institute, a letter was read from R. L. Cox, of Patterson, New Jersey, which says: "Gen. Talmadge says that the Lombardy Poplars have run out, and so they ought, for we only imported *males*."

We have often heard the same explanation given to the same fact; but will any one tell us how the having but one sex runs the tree out? Of course no *seed* can be perfected in diœcious plants if but one sex is present. But how the longevity of the *tree* should be affected we are at a loss to know. It is a very beautiful tree, and, were it healthy, could not be spared from our stock of ornamental trees. But it is now a miserable wreck. It was introduced some ninety years ago, into the various parts of Europe, from Italy; and such was the mania, for a time, for this favorite, that, in many cases, old and venerable trees were displaced to give it room.

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## COMMON SCHOOLS, AND EDUCATED FARMERS.

It is time for those who do not believe ignorance to be a blessing, to move in behalf of common schools. Our State at the last census had, we believe, 38,000 adults unable to read or write. A generation would cure all that, if, by means of common schools, all our youth were educated. But this is far from being the case. Schools in many portions of the State are not plenty, nor good for much what few there may be. Many teachers are not practiced even in the rudiments of the spelling book; and as for reading, they stumble along the sentences, like a drunken man on a rough road. Their "*hand-write*," as they felicitously style the hieroglyphics, would be a match for Champoleon, even if he *did* decypher the Egyptian inscriptions. But a more detestable fact is, that sometimes their morals are bad; they are intemperate, coarse, and ill-tempered; and wholly unfit to inspire the minds of the pupils with one generous or pure sentiment. We do not mean to characterize the *body* of the Indiana common school-masters by these remarks; but that any considerable portion of them should be such, is a disgraceful evidence of the low state of education.

Farmers and mechanics! this is a subject which comes home to you. Crafty politicians are constantly calling you the *bone and sinew* of the land; and you may depend upon it that you will never be anything else but bone and sinew without education. There is a law of God in this matter. That class of men who make the most and best use of their *heads*, will, in *fact*, be the most influential, will stand highest, whatever the theories and speeches may say. This is a "nature of things" which cannot be dodged, nor got over. Whatever class bestow great pains upon the cultivation of their minds will stand high. If farmers and mechanics feel themselves to be as good as other people, it all may be true; for *goodness* is one thing and *intelligence* is another. If they think that they have just as much mind as other

classes, that may be true; but can you *use it as well?*

Lawyers, and physicians, and clergymen, and literary men, make the discipline of their intellect a constant study. They read more, think more, write more than the laboring classes. The difference between the educated and uneducated portions of society is a *real* difference. Now a proud and lazy fellow, may rail and swear at this, and have his labor for his pains. There is only one way really to get over it, and that is to rear up a generation of well educated, thinking, reading farmers and mechanics. Your skill and industry are felt; and they put you in these respects, ahead of any other class. Just as soon as your *heads* are felt, as much as your *hands* are, that will bring you to the top.

Many of our best farmers are men of great natural shrewdness; but when they were young, they "had no chance for learning." They feel the loss, and they are giving their children the best education they can. Farmers' sons constitute three-fifths of the educated class. But the thing is, that they are not educated *as farmers.* When they begin to study they leave the farm. They do not expect to return to it. The idea of sending a boy to the school, the academy, and the college, and then let him go back to farming, is regarded as a mere waste of time and money.—You see how it is even among yourselves. If a boy has an education, you expect him to be a lawyer, or a doctor, or a preacher. You tacitly admit that a farmer does not need such an education; and, if you think so, you cannot blame others if they follow your example.

There is no reason why men of the very highest education should not go to a farm for their living. If a son of mine were brought up on purpose to be a farmer, if that was the calling which he preferred, I still would educate him, if he had common sense to begin with. He would be as much better for it as a farmer, as he would as a lawyer. There is no reason why a thoroughly scientific education should not be given to every farmer and to every mechanic. A beginning must be made at the common-school. Every neighborhood ought to have one. But they do not grow of themselves, like toad-stools. And no decent man will teach school on wages which a canal boy, or a hostler would turn up his nose at. You may as well put your money into the fire as to send it to a "make-believe" teacher—a great noodle-head, who teaches school because he is fit for nothing else! Lay out to get a *good teacher.* Be willing to pay enough to make it worth while for "smart" men to become your teachers. And when your boys show an awakening taste for books, see that they have good histories, travels, and scientific tracts and treatises. Above all, do not let a boy get a notion that if he is educated, he must, of course, quit the farm. Let him get an education that he may *make a better farmer.* I do not despair of yet seeing a generation of honest politicians. Educated farmers and educated mechanics, who are in good circumstances, and *do not need office for a support,* nor make politics a trade, will stand the best chance for honesty.—But the Lord deliver us from the political honesty of tenth-rate lawyers, vagabond doctors, bawling preachers, and bankrupt clerks, turned into patriotic politicians!

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### SUN-FLOWER SEED.

To some extent this is likely to become a profitable crop. Mr. Clark Kitchener in this (Marion) county, tried about an acre of it this year. A part of it did not do well; but off from one half acre he raised *thirty-five bushels;* or seventy bushels to the acre. Medium lands will yield, on an average, fifty bushels; while first-rate lands will yield from seventy to a hundred bushels.

*Mode of cultivation.*—The ground is prepared in all respects as for a corn crop, and the seed sown in drills four feet apart—one plant to every eighteen inches in the drill. It is to be plowed and tended, in all respects, like a crop of corn.

*Harvesting.*—As the heads ripen, they are gathered, laid on a barn floor and threshed with a flail. The seed shells very easily.

*Use.*—The seed may be employed in fattening hogs, feeding poultry, &c., and for this last purpose it is better than grain. But the seed is more valuable at the *oil-mill* than elsewhere. It will yield a gallon to the bushel without trouble; and by careful working more than this. Hemp yields one and a fourth gallons to the bushel, and flax-seed one and a half by ordinary pressure; but two gallons under the hydraulic press.

The oil has, as yet, no established market price. It will range from seventy cents to a dollar, according as its value shall be established as an article for lamps and for painters' use. But at seventy cents a gallon for oil, the seed would command fifty-five cents a bushel, which is a much higher price than can be had for corn.

It is stated, but upon how sufficient proof I know not, that sun-flower oil is excellent for burning in lamps. It has also been tried by our painters to some extent; and for *inside* work, it is said to be as good as linseed oil. Mr. Hannaman, of this place, who has kindly put me in possession of these facts, says, that the oil resembles an *animal,*

rather than a vegetable oil; that it has not the *varnish* properties of the linseed oil. We suppose by varnish is meant, the albumen and mucilage which are found in vegetable oils. The following analysis of *hempseed*, and *flaxseed*, or as it is called in England lint or lime seed, will shew the proportions of various ingredients in 100 parts.

| | Hemp seed (Bucholz.) | Lime seed (Leo Meier.) |
|---|---|---|
| Oil | 19.1 | 11.3 |
| Husk, etc. | 38.3 | 44.4 |
| Woody fibre and starch | 5.0 | 1.5 |
| Sugar, etc. | 1.6 | 10.8 |
| Gum | 9.0 | 7.1 |
| Soluble albumen (Casein?) | 24.7 | 15.1 |
| Insoluble do. | —— | 3.7 |
| Wax and resin | 1.6 | 3.1 |
| Loss | 0.7 | 3.0 |
| | 100 | 100 |

The existence of impurities in oil, such as mucilage, albumen, wax, gum, etc., which increase its value to the painter, diminish its value for the *lamp*, since these substances crust or cloy the wick, and prevent a clear flame. All oils may, therefore, the less excellent they are for painting, be regarded as the more valuable for burning. *Rape seed* is extensively raised in Europe, chiefly in Flanders, for its oil, and is much used for burning. Ten quarts may be extracted from a bushel of seed. It is beginning to be raised in Ohio for this purpose. We append a table representing the richness of various seeds, etc., in oil.

| | Oil per cent. |
|---|---|
| Lime-seed (flax) | 11 to 22 |
| Hemp seed | 14 to 25 |
| Rape seed | 40 to 70 |
| Poppy seed | 36 to 53 |
| White mustard seed | 36 to 38 |
| Black mustard seed | 15 |
| Swedish turnep seed | 34 |
| Sun-flower seed | 15 |
| Walnut kernels | 40 to 70 |
| Hazel-nut kernels | 60 |
| Beech-nut kernels | 15 to 17 |
| Plum stone do. | 33 |
| Sweet almond kernels | 40 to 54 |
| Bitter do. do. | 28 to 46 |

If any of our readers can furnish us additional information we should be thankful for it.

### AUTUMNAL MARROW SQUASH.

We insert a note from Dr. Cornett, on the Boston marrowfat squash, which is likely to become the western name for the true *autumnal marrow* of the Boston market. We first saw the squash in Boston in 1840. It sells in that market at from *one* to *six* cents a pound, according to the season; for, although it comes into eating in the fall, it still remains in market through the winter, and as late as May; and is then succeeded by the winter, and the Canada crook-neck. We were indebted to Mr. Ernst for a re-supply of the seed, last spring, and our crop has proved fine. We shall be glad to distribute seed to any who desire them. It is, perhaps, the best early winter-squash, and it answers very well for a summer-squash.

## COMMUNICATIONS.

### BOSTON MARROWFAT SQUASH.

*Mr. Editor* — Permit me to invite the attention of your readers to the Boston marrowfat squash as highly deserving cultivation. Last winter I was presented with some of the seed by Mr. Ernst, who gave it me, as his opinion, that this is decidedly the best squash for culinary purposes with which he was acquainted. I succeeded well in the culture, and fully concur with him in opinion as to its merits. When properly baked, it is in my estimation, equal to the sweet potatoe, and far more digestible. Some of them ripen in August, and how long they will keep I have not yet ascertained. Persons who desire to cultivate the squash should recollect that nothing else of the pumpkin family should be planted near them, as they will mix and degenerate. I have more of the seed than I desire to plant next season, and it will afford me pleasure to present some of them to each of your subscribers in this county who will take the trouble to call for them. W. T. S. Cornett.

*Ripley Co., Oct.* 22d, 1845.

### VOLUME ONE.

Let us spread upon our table, this long winter evening, the first twenty-four numbers of the Indiana Farmer and Gardener, and hunt up some things we faintly remember, that deserve a re-examination; some things that require correction; and many things that we can chat about. Let us see — yes, — they are all here; and they have come to us always in due season, (which is no small merit in these days of pie-crust promises,) neatly and correctly printed, thoroughly imbued with the spirit of enterprise, and in every way "well got up." With a plain, unassuming title, the volume is of particularly convenient size, the vignette neat and characteristic, (except that I have never been able to divine what those little black boys are doing on the arch of the bridge,) and every page has its appropriate head; and then, what a copious, labor-saving index have we here!*

These preliminaries being settled, we will proceed with our desultory chat over the numbers as they come; and, as what we shall probably say will assume something like the character of a *running* commentary, we will not take time to perform the accustomed bows to ettiquet; but, rod in hand, we will point to this, that, and the other topic as we hasten along, giving a gentle tap, now and then, for aught we know, to Tom, Dick and Harry, if they are not already wide awake and shining. But the editor! what shall we do with him? In time past, it used to be choice sport for scholars to bar out the master, or circumvent him as they could; and I do not see why we have not an equal

* *The index is ready, and will be sent with our next number. It would have gone with this, if all our type had been ready* — Ed.

right to treat our editor just as ungraciously, if we could only get at him safely to ourselves; for, with a vivid recollection of the fate of that "Wine-committee," and sundry other victims that crossed his path, we shall have to eye him very cautiously, if we meddle with him at all.

Well, here is No. I: on page 2, a correspondent tells us, *the soil in Wayne county consists chiefly, he thinks, of argillaceous and calcarious earths.* Such a soil, except in a bed of potters' clay, or at the bottom of a lime-kiln, will scarcely be found in the western States. The average of various analyses of the soil of our county would stand nearly thus:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Silicious portion | - - | 86 parts |
| Aluminous " | - - - | 12 " |
| Calcarious " | - - - | 2 " |
| | | 100 |

*Snow as manure*, p. 5. In our more northern altitudes, as in New York, where the fields have their thick blankets of snow to keep them warm during winter, there is much of interest in these remarks; but here, where the quantity of snow that falls, (see "Winters in Wayne County," p. 154) is so slight as scarcely to justify a man in keeping a sleigh, our concern should be to find a substitute for as many of the valuable properties of snow as possible. I know of none better than a good dressing of *thoroughly rotted* manure and thick seeding of the wheat. Every observant person knows that a coat of grass will keep the ground soft and mellow, long after the *naked* earth is frozen to a rocky hardness.

*Linseed oil*, p. 7. Get your grammar-books, children, and correct two gross errors, which have caught our eye, in this short paragraph.

*Ashes*, p. 9. These, though leached, or spent, as some say, should always be emptied upon the manure heap. Leaching only removes the greater part of the potash; and then we have left for our crops a large portion of silica, and charcoal, with carbonate and phosphate of lime, some potash, manganese and iron; all once constituents of vegetables, and all needed for vegetables again.

*Corn, wheat, oats*, p. 12. I doubt whether the "Friend Quakers" are sufficiently numerous in this county, to stand responsible for the *average* crops. Whether the supposed average named is nearly correct, I shall not attempt to judge; but I know it is the practice of many "Friend Quakers," if not of all, to incorporate as much manure with their land as they can command; sometimes paying twenty-five cents a load for the privilege of hauling it from town. Of course town manure is always in demand, and is not unfrequently taken three or four miles into the country. The consequence is, these "Friend Quakers" raise not twelve only, but twenty to twenty-seven bushels of wheat to the aker; and instead of thirty bushels of corn, from fifty to eighty bushels. And as the agriculture of the county is evidently undergoing a transformation—passing from its pupa or inactive state, to one of life and vigor, we shall probably, ere long, hear, of brag-crops here as elsewhere. I think our population is at least becoming weaned from the doctrine of "inexhaustible fertility," and does not wholly depend upon the paps of mother earth for sustenance.

We have now taken a hop, skip and jump thro' No. I, leaving the best things in it to take care of themselves. Now comes No. 2.

*Proper depth for Seeds*, p. 19. If a proper degree of *moisture* could be maintained around seeds, it would not be necessary to protect them "from immediate contact with the air" or light, by *any* depth of covering, to secure their germination. The proper depth to obtain this degree of humidity, varies in different soils and in different seasons; but as a *general* rule, shallow planting is undoubtedly best. I have sometimes scattered garden seeds upon the surface of the bed, and covered them with boards to prevent the evaporation of the moisture of the soil, until the radicals struck into the earth; but there are some objections to this practice.

*Liability of different Animals to Die*, p. 19. In looking over this interesting little table, I could not forbear comparing the small per centage of deaths among swine in Germany, (about three per cent.) with the vast annual mortality among the greasy brutes, in the western States; for if they do not perish at an earlier period, the approach of cold weather threatens them with certain destruction.

*Melacatune*, p. 23. Melocaton, Melocatoon, Malacatune, and I know not how many other spellings; with all manner of accentuations. It would be well if the orthography and accent of this word were settled. Webster authorizes Me-lo-co-tone, and no other. Shall he rule?

The young critics around the table may now exercise themselves in searching for two grammatical errors in the second column of this page; and they may tell us why "flavour" should be spelt with a *u* and "color" without it. Of course these are common errors of haste; and without them we should lack examples of false syntax, &c.

*Geological Definitions* are very appropriately introduced. Can't we spend half an hour this evening in rendering them familiar, once for all? And afterward we will read these judicious remarks upon *draining*, (p. 24,) with an eye to our own farms; and these cautionary lessons on forcing the growth of fruit trees. But what is this in No. 3, p. 34? Richness of land maintained by weeds and grass, *forever!* ("any length of time"!) But as the correspondent is "confident" in this matter, having "fully tried the experiment," perhaps he will not consider it impertinent, if we ask the precise age of the old man.

*Spaying*, p. 35. The reputed effects of the practice are better known perhaps, than the mode of performing the operation. Who will devote a little time to an article detailing the best method? Whether to make the incision in the abdomen or flank? how long? what care is necessary? how to sew up the wound? &c. When thus equipped with the needful information, perchance some of *our* farmers might thus attempt to enlarge the carcase and the quantity of tallow of their heifers.

*Rats*, p. 35. Rats! Ah! well may ye scamper now that the chemists have let loose their phosphorus upon you! We have tried you with deadfalls, and arsenic, and false-heads, and the water-trap, and the block-trap, and the wire-trap, and the steel-trap, and paper caps, and the cat springs, and weasel teeth, and dog teeth, and guns, and clubs; our utmost ingenuity has been taxed to put you to rest; we have given you every reason to believe that we do not wish to entertain boarders

such as ye; but we are happy to say we will gladly *take you in now.** J. T. P.

### AN EXPERIMENT UPON POTATOES.

You wished me to say something about the manner I managed the piece of ground I planted with potatoes.

I planted the ground about the middle of May, then harrowed it, then furrowed it out about three and a half feet; but I find it was too wide. I think if I had laid it off something less than three feet it would have been better. I dropped the potatoes in drills, some eighteen inches to two feet apart; which I now think too far apart. They were then covered with earth about the usual depth, and after all was done, I drew straw from the barn-yard and from the field where we had threshed last fall, and covered them from three to five inches thick with the straw. No more was done to them until they were ripe and fit to dig. I then set fire to the straw, which run very readily over the piece, burning everything on the ground—straw, potato-tops, weeds, and all; although there were not many weeds, for the straw had hindered them from growing enough to do any considerable damage.

I planted another piece of ground of the same description immediately along side, which I did not cover with straw. The consequence was, I had but few potatoes; not near one-half as many as I had from the piece which I covered with straw. They were both about the same size, and managed in the same manner, only the one piece was not covered with straw.

I had 320 bushels from 148 rods of ground of that which was covered with straw. We have had a very dry season, and the potato crop has turned out very poor. Some of my neighbors say, they have not got more than fifty bushels from an acre. Neighbor Samuel Treat planted twelve acres and cultivated them well, and he says he has not got more than fifty bushels to the acre.

The philosophy of covering the ground with straw, I think, is this: the ground was kept moist and shaded by the straw and did not get dry from one shower to another; and also when ground is covered from the searching rays of the sun by any means, it collects more salts at the surface, and, of course, is prepared to produce a crop. Look along and under fences, where grasses are sown, and you will see double and sometimes quadruple as much there as you will one rod off.

Take a board, for instance, and lay it on the ground, let it lie all summer, then take it up, and see what a difference there will be between the spot, and the earth a few inches from where it lay. The fact is, that the earth will be highly charged with salts where the board lay.

B. M. NEWKIRK.

*Laporte, Ia., Nov.* 8.

* *I have used a compound essentially the same as that recommended in page thirty-five, and so effectually, that I believe every rat-troubled farmer, who will obtain a preparation like that of Dr. Ure's, and use it as directed, will save corn, apples, and potatoes enough, to pay for many volumes of the Farmer and Gardener.*

### FAITH AND JUSTICE.

Among several miscellaneous papers lately received, I find a number of the Flushing Journal, published in New York, containing the "Farmers' Creed." Curious to know what he believed, I began to read; and immediately discovered it to be an *adopted* faith; the veritable author of the article being *our* editor, H. W. Beecher. See for evidence page 131 of the Farmer and Gardener. I do not know that there is such a thing as pinning another's faith upon one's sleeve; but this looks very much like it.

The editorials of this paper appear to be esteemed common property; and like the fruit trees by the road-side, every wayfarer plucks from them what his wants require: but there is this consolation in the grievance, that it furnishes satisfactory proof that the editorials are neither hawthorns nor crab-apples; for no wayfaring man plucketh these; but he chooseth always that which is *good*.

There is little doubt but that many of these cases of usurpation are acts of mere inconsiderateness; and to try the merits of the case in question, I propose to the editor of the Flushing Journal the following simple test: While reading these remarks, (if peradventure they fall in his way) let him narrowly watch the letter F in Flushing Journal; and if in five minutes it does not change color and turn to a B, the case may be dismissed from court and the party go free.

I do not know but that our editor would be warranted in making a few reprisals by wholesale, somewhat after the manner practised in No. 21, where six columns of selected articles appear as "editorial," and six more as "original correspondence;" but the reader will please to bear in mind that in the same number he is requested to "excuse mistakes" as he is assured there is some design in making them. Benj. Lay, that eccentric philanthropist, once snatched a child from the door of a slaveholder, and retained it for some time in his possession, that he who had so often claimed as his own property the children of others, might feel the injustice brought home. J. T. P.

The editor was absent during the making up of the 21st and 23d Nos. inclusive. The error alluded to is counteracted, in its tendency to mislead, by having the appropriate credits attached to the separate articles under these erroneous "running titles"—which lie as they run.—*Ed.*

### THE POLAR PLANT.

As I always like my own enquiries promptly answered, I am induced, on the principal of reciprocation, or rather on Franklin's plan of "letting good offices go round," to give H. P. B. what little I know of the polar plant. It was about seventeen years ago I crossed the Grand Prairie, and there first met with this vegetable, which has been accurately described by H. P. B., so far as respects its supposed magnetic properties. In several sections of Illinois, it is called *rosin-weed*, on account of resinous matter which exudes from it; but this secretion is not peculiar to this plant; other sygenesious or compound flowers also produce resin.

I have always attributed the "polarity" of these leaves to the influence of *light;* and I think the querist will find that they will lose their "polarity"

when secured for some time from the action of the solar rays. I have observed the leaves of many other plants to assume the same position; (facing east and west;) but none so remarkably as the rosin-weed.

The present writer has a fine specimen of this plant in his herbarium; and those who live convenient and have any curiosity to examine it, may be gratified by an inspection of it. J. T. P.

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### LETTER FROM DR. HARRIS, UPON INSECTS.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Oct. 8, 1845.

*To the Editor of the Western Farmer and Gardener:*

SIR: — The 18th and 19th numbers of the "Indiana Farmer and Gardener" have been duly received. They seem to have been sent for the purpose of drawing my attention to the communications on destructive insects contained in them.

It would give me pleasure to furnish information on the subject of these insects were it in my power so to do.

You are right in stating that the female canker-worm moth is wingless. The male, only, has wings. As Mr. Ragan did not notice this fact in the insects observed by him, it remains doubtful whether the first of his insects, which he saw paired, were the same as the canker-worms of the New England States, although their habits do certainly appear very much like those of our canker-worms. It will not be safe to hazard any conjectures respecting the two other kinds of insects described by Mr. Ragan, excepting that the last of them may be some kind of Tortrix, or leaf-roller. Perfect specimens of each of these insects, in the winged state, would alone enable me to decide upon them.

The wheat insect, described in the 19th number of your paper, is, doubtless, the same as the "fly-weevil" of Col. Carter, and is probably identical with the destructive Angoumois moth of Europe. I have not collected any new facts respecting it, since the publication of the "Treatise on Insects injurious to Vegetation," which work, pages 365–368, contains a condensed account of all that is now known to me on the subject. The observations by Col. Carter, with the remarks on the same by the committee of husbandry, published in the first volume of the Transactions of the Philadelphia Society at Philadelphia, are too long to be extracted entire. I will only add that this fly-weevil or moth has been found as far north as Dixmont, Maine; and, probably, it will be met with wherever wheat can be cultivated.

I regret that my present duties do not leave me any time to continue the study of destructive insects, and that the present communication is necessarily imperfect, and must be, to the same extent, unsatisfactory.

With my best wishes for the success of your interesting and valuable paper, I remain,

very respectfully,

your most obedient,

THADDEUS WILLIAM HARRIS.

In a portion of his communication, not designed for publication, Dr. Harris expresses a wish for Some specimens of the Angoumois moth; as the directions for procuring them may be valuable to some of our readers we insert them. — *Editor.*

"I should be glad to get some forty or fifty of these same *fly-weevils* or *millers* in the *winged* state. Perhaps some of your correspondents can furnish specimens. Great care in taking and keeping these delicate winged millers or moths will be necessary, otherwise the coloring matter will be rubbed off their wings. If caught by placing a tumbler over them and slipping a sheet of paper or a card underneath the inverted vessel, they would escape injury. They can then be killed in one of two ways. First, wet a small piece of soft paper with eight or ten drops of *ether*, and put the same into or under the tumbler. The *ether odor* will kill the fly in half an hour: or second, having caught the insect under the tumbler, press into the vessel some soft paper so as to confine the insect in a narrower space, and then invert the tumbler in a vessel of boiling water, so however as not to wet the insect: the heat will kill the latter in a few minutes. After the flies are killed they should be put into a small *tight* pill-box, in which many specimens can be placed, and then lay over them a little cotton wool; shut the cover, paste a strip of paper round the joint, and the insects may be kept, and sent as found most convenient."

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## SELECTIONS.

### CHOLIC IN HORSES — CAUSE AND CURE.

I go a little out of my limits to speak of this disease. I do so for four reasons. In the first place, the disease is deadly; it destroys more heavy draught-horses than all others put together. In the second place, I can show how it may be cured with infallible certainty, if it be taken in time. In the third place, the disease requires immediate relief; the horse may be dead, or past cure, before the medical assistant can be obtained. And in the fourth place, the nature of the disease and its treatment, are not known, or they are too little known by the veterinarian. These circumstances induce me to digress a little from the proper object of this work; and I think they are of sufficient importance to render apology unnecessary. I will, however, be brief. In another place I will enter into details which would be improper in this.

*The causes of cholic* are rather numerous. I have already said that an overloaded stomach is one, particularly when water is given either immediately before, or immediately after an extraordinary allowance of food; but water directly after even an ordinary meal is never very safe. [It suspends digestion and occasions fermentation.] Another cause is violent exertion on a full stomach; a third cause, is a sudden change of diet, from hay, for instance, to grass, or from oats to barley; but an allowance, particularly a large allowance, of any food to which the horse has not been accustomed, is liable to produce cholic. — Some articles produce it oftener than others. Raw potatoes, carrots, turneps, green food, seem more susceptible of fermentation than hay or oats, barley more than beans; wheat and peas more than barley. Such at least they have seemed to me; but it is probable that in the cases from which I have drawn my conclusions, sudden change and quantity may have had as much to do in producing cholic, as the fermentable nature of the food. Haste in feeding is a common cause; if the horse

swallow his food very greedily, without sufficient mastication, he is very liable to cholic.

Heavy draught-horses are almost the only subjects of cholic, and among the owners of them it is difficult to meet with an old farmer or carter who has not lost more than one. Light, fast-working horses are rarely troubled with it, and few die of it. The difference is easily explained. Heavy, slow-working horses are long in the yoke, they fast till their appetite is like a raven's; when they come home they get a large quantity of grain all at once, and they devour it in such haste that it is not properly masticated, and the stomach is suddenly overloaded. Possibly the quantity may not be very great, yet it is eaten too fast. The juice by which the food should be digested can not be made in such a hurry, at least not enough of it; and add to this the rapid distension of the stomach; more deliberate mastication and deglution would enable this organ to furnish the requisite quantity of gastric juice, and to dilate sufficiently to contain the food with ease. In fast feeding, the stomach is taken too much by surprise.

Light horses are usually fed oftener, and with more regularity. They receive grain so often that they are not so fond of it; not disposed to eat too much; and the nature of their work often destroys the appetite, even when abstinence has been unusually prolonged.

The bulk of the food, however, has a great deal to do with this disease. An overloaded stomach will produce it in any kind of horse, but those who have the bowels and stomach habitually loaded are always in the greatest danger. Horses that get little grain must eat a large quantity of roots or of fodder, as much as the digestive apparatus can control. The stomach and bowels cannot act upon any more, and that which they cannot act upon runs speedily into fermentation.

This seems to me the principal reason why slow work-horses are so much more liable to the disease than fast workers. When the pace reaches seven or eight miles an hour, the belly will not carry a great bulk of food, and so much grain is given that the horse has no inclination to load his bowels with fodder. There is never, or very rarely, more food than the stomach, the bowels, and the juices of these, can act upon.

*Symptoms of cholic.*—The horse is taken suddenly ill. If at work, he slackens his pace, attempts to stop, and when he stops, he prepares to lie down; sometimes he goes down as if shot, the moment he stands or is allowed to stand; at slow work he sometimes quickens his pace and is unwilling to stand. In the stable he begins to paw the ground with his fore feet, lies down, rolls, sometimes quite over, lies on his back; when the distension is not great he lies tolerably quiet, and for several minutes. But when the distension and pain are greater, he neither stands or lies a minute; he is no sooner down than he is up. He generally starts all at once, and throws himself down again with great violence. He strikes the belly with his hind feet, and in moments of comparative ease he looks wistfully at his flanks. When standing he makes many and fruitless attempts to urinate; and the keeper always declares there is "something wrong with the water." In a little while the belly swells all round, or it swells most on the right flank. The worst, the most painful cases, are those in which the swelling is general; sometimes it is very inconsiderable, the air being in small quantity, or not finding its way into the bowels. As the disease proceeds, the pain becomes more and more intense. The horse dashes himself about with terrible violence. Every fall threatens to be his last. The perspiration runs off him in streams. His countenance betrays extreme agony, his contortions are frightfully violent, and seldom even for an instant suspended.

After continuing in this state for a brief period, other symptoms appear, indicating rupture or inflammation, or the approach of death without either. These, and the treatment they demand, I need not describe here. The horse may either be cured, or a veterinarian obtained, before inflammation or other consequences of the distension can take place.

*Treatment of cholic.*—The treatment consists in arresting the fermentation, and in re-establishing the digestive powers. There are many things that will do both. In mild cases a good domestic remedy in common use among oldfashioned people who have never heard of inflamed, spasmed, or strangulated bowels, is whiskey and pepper, or gin and pepper. About half a tumbler of spirits with a teaspoonful of pepper given in a quart bottle of milk or warm water, will often afford immediate relief. If the pain do not abate in twenty or thirty minutes, the dose may be repeated, and even a third dose is in some cases necessary. Four ounces of spirits of turpentine, with twice as much sweet oil, is much stronger, but if the horse is much averse to the medicine, turpentine is not always quite safe.

There is, however, a better remedy, which should always be in readiness wherever several draught-horses are kept. Take a quart of brandy, add to it four ounces of sweet spirits of nitre, three ounces of whole ginger, and three ounces of cloves. In eight days this mixture or tincture is ready for use; the cloves and ginger may still remain in the bottle, but they are not to be given. Set the bottle away, and put a label upon it; call it the "cholic mixture." The dose is six ounces, to be given in a quart of milk or warm water every fifteen or twenty minutes till the horse be cured. Keep his head straight and not too high when it is given. Do not pull out his tongue, as some stupid people do, when giving a drink. If the horse be very violent, get him into a wide open place, where you will have room to go about him. If he will not stand till the drink be given, watch him when down, and give it, though he be lying, whenever you can get him to take a mouthful. But give the dose as quickly as possible. After that, rub the belly with a soft whisp, walk the horse about *very slowly*, or give him a good bed, and room to roll. In eighty cases out of ninety this treatment will succeed, provided the medicine be got down the horse's throat before his bowels become inflamed, or strangulated, or burst. The delay of half an hour may be fatal.

When the second dose does not procure relief, the third may be of double or treble strength. I have given a full quart in about an hour, but the horse was very ill.

In many cases the horse takes ill during the night, and is far gone before he is discovered in the morning. In such a case this remedy may be too late, or it may not be proper; still, if the belly

be swelled, let it be given, unless the veterinary surgeon can be procured immediately. In all cases it is proper to send for him at the beginning. You or your servants may not be able to give the medicine, or the disease may have produced some other, which this medicine will not cure. If the veterinarian can be got in a few minutes, do nothing till he comes. But do not wait long.

The horse is sometimes found dead in the morning; his belly is always much swelled, and the owner is suspicious of poisoning. I have known much vexation arise from such suspicion, when a single glance at the belly might have shown from what the horse died. There is no poison that will produce this swelling, which is sometimes so great as to burst the surcingle. On dissection the stomach is frequently burst, the belly full of food, water, and air, and the diaphragm ruptured.—When death is slow, the bowels are always intensely inflamed, sometimes burst, and often twisted. But these things will never happen when the treatment I have recommended is adopted at the very beginning.

The horse sometimes takes the disease on the road. If his pace be fast, he should stop at once. To push him on beyond a walk, even for a short distance, is a certain death. The bowels are displaced, twisted, and strangulated, partly by the distension, but aided a great deal by the exertion; and no medicine will restore them to their proper position. A walk *after* the medicine is good, and the pace *should not* pass a walk.

*Stewart's Stable Economy.*

## ENGLISH VETERINARY COLLEGES.

I must not quit the subject of agricultural education without adverting to some other institutions of great importance. The first of these is the veterinary college, near London. I believe there is one of a similar character near Edinburgh; but that I have not visited.

The object of this institution was to qualify persons, by the study of comparative anatomy and physiology, and by opportunities for witnessing hospital practice and investigating the symptoms and phenomena of diseases in the lower animals, to practice veterinary surgery and medicine; and to do what can be done, by skill and science, for the relief of the sufferings and the cure of the maladies of quadrupeds of all kinds—horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, etc. For this purpose, a number of gentlemen associated, and, by a subscription for life of twenty guineas each, or an annual payment of two guineas, laid the foundation of this excellent and humane establishment. An extensive plot of ground, about three miles from the centre of London, was obtained, and the necessary buildings—consisting of stables and loose boxes; long piazzas for the purpose of giving the patients exercise in bad weather under cover; a room for lectures and dissections, and for a museum of anatomical preparations; and specimens of diseased organization, and a forge for shoeing, together with apartments for the resident professor, and for the accommodation of the servents of the establishment—have been erected; and already nearly or quite a thousand pupils have received diplomas or certificates of their qualifications for practice, and have gone to the business of their profession in different parts of the kingdom, in the army, and in foreign countries.

Subscribers to the establishment have the privilege of sending their horses, or diseased animals, to the institution, without any other expense than the actual cost of their food; but no animal can be admitted which is not the property of either an annual or a permanent subscriber. The horses of subscribers are sometimes prescribed for at their own stables, when it is inconvenient to send them, provided the medicines are compounded at the college. In case the disease of an animal is pronounced desperate, the owner, upon paying the expenses already incurred, may surrender him to the college; and if, by any treatment which they may see fit to adopt, the animal is recovered, the owner may have him again by paying the additional expenses since his surrender, or he will be considered the property of the college. Horses likewise may be shod at the forge of the college at the customary charges. Subscribers likewise, at a distance, have the privilege of procuring any medicines or drugs, which may be required, compounded at the college, and furnished at the actual cost.

A principal and an adjunct professor of veterinary science and practice, men eminent for their knowledge and skill, preside over the institution, and give regular courses of lectures and examinations; and the number of patients in the infirmary is generally such as to afford the students an opportunity of seeing a considerable variety of practice, especially among horses, to which hitherto the practice has been mainly confined. Besides this, through the liberality of the professors of the medical college, the students at the veterinary institution have an opportunity of attending the medical and anatomical lectures gratuitously at these institutions; and, to guard, as far as possible, against ignorance and incompetency, no student can receive the diploma or recommendation of the institution to practice, until he has passed a regular and thorough examination, and has been found qualified for the duty.

This is a most excellent institution. In an economical view, it is highly important; for the amount of property in live stock is everywhere very great; and here, where, as in several establishments kept by a single individual, there are twenty and thirty, and sometimes forty horses for hunting, and in other cases as many more for racing,—and where, as in several cases within my knowledge, packs of dogs, of very great original cost, are kept at an expense of from fifteen hundred to two thousand pounds, or from seven thousand to ten thousand dollars, a year, and in many cases more than that,—it is easy to see what a large amount of property is at stake, and to what care it is entitled. I have been at one or two establishments where the horses in the stables, exclusive of horses for farm work, amounted to sixty or eighty. The large number of cavalry horses belonging to the army render the services of a veterinary surgeon, in such establishments, of indispensable importance.

Surgery, as an art, has been carried to great perfection; and in some circumstances hardly any thing more seems wanting than actually to breathe into some of the artificial anatomical preparations the Promethian fire, and set the circulations in motion. Medicine, indeed, presents but few infallible remedies, but something has been done; and if comparatively little has been accomplished

by physic, yet much has been done by a curative treatment and regimen. I am aware that it is quite customary to say of many novel, and certainly many gentle modes of treatment, of recent date, that the patients are cured by the imagination; and this is as agreeable a mode of cure as blood-letting, or powerful doses of calomel and jallap, or the exciting operation of Spanish flies. It is obvious, however, that, until we make much further progress in phrenological science, we can do little by applications to the imaginations of horses or dogs. But, whatever imperfection attaches itself to medical science, something at least may be gained from it; and it certainly presents the only practicable and probable means of learning the nature of disease, and combatting its power. At any rate, medical science, and a thorough medical education, seem to afford the only substantial security against the evils of empiricism or quackery; and, to say nothing of experiments upon the human organism, I have myself seen, under the pretence of remedy or cure, such horrible cruelties practiced upon dumb animals, as have filled me with indignation, and have made me indulge the inhuman wish of changing places with the operator—of putting him in the position of his unhappy patient, and of being allowed to try some of his prescriptions upon himself. If they answered, well; but, in many cases, I think he would soon be past answering at all. The public have reason to congratulate themselves that medical practice is now everywhere assuming the character of prevention rather than of cure; and that the truly respectable part of the profession, dropping that profound air of mystery with which they formerly were accustomed to wrap themselves up, and which made one tremble in their presence almost as much as in the presence of the original professor of the black art, now prefer the more simple to the more artificial practice. They seem to be fast learning that Nature, like others of the sex, may be persuaded, but not forced; may be kindly led, but woe be to the man who attempts to drive her; and that, in truth, the great object of medicine is, not to give health, but to remove disease; to clean and adjust the machinery, and then it will go right of itself, barring accidents, as long as it is intended to go at all.

But these animals have bones to ache, and nerves to feel, as well as ourselves. They furnish our support; they perform our labors; they promote our pleasures; they are patient, enduring, and indefatigable, in our service. Has not God cast them upon our care, and put them under our protection? What a responsibility! Shall it be said that those who have no voice to speak for themselves, shall find no one to speak for them? What if they have no moral nature? Then they have not the vices of animals of a superior class, who, dishonoring, perverting, and outraging, that moral nature, degrade themselves far below the class of beings guided only by instinctive impulses. It is said of the great Emperor, that his heart was never more touched, if heart indeed he had, than on a certain occasion, when, three days after a sanguinary battle, where human victims were immolated to his dreadful ambition by thousands, riding over a field thickly strewed with the dying and the dead, he found a faithful dog lying by the side and licking the bleeding wounds of his dying master. The noble dog of St. Bernard, dragging the perishing traveller from the snow-drift to the hospitable convent, for warmth and comfort, and the poor spaniel dying with slow starvation upon the grave of his master, and refusing to be led away or to be comforted, are pictures of heroism and fidelity worthy of a place at the side of that of Regulus, deaf to the entreaties of his family taking leave of the senate on his return to fulfil his pledge, or that of the Grecian daughter nourishing her father in prison.

Humanity calls upon us to alleviate suffering, wherever suffering exists. I wish that veterinary instruction was connected with all our medical schools, and made an indispensable branch of study. We try all kinds of experiments upon these helpless animals for the benefit of science, and science should do something to repay the debt, by attempting, in every practicable form, to alleviate the sufferings of the race. In the country, a medical practitioner, who would add veterinary skill and practice to his other services, would confer immense benefits. It is lamentable that, by a false standard of moral duty, such an office should be thought degrading. In many cases, it might subject him to painful and thankless services; but the life of every benevolent physician is full of such services, and he has only to thank God that he has the power of doing so much good, often at so little cost. So far from such a practice being degrading, the physician who would be willing to render such services would be worthy of double honor; for the more humble, the meaner, the more friendless the sufferer, proportionately is the glory of the kindness enhanced. There is no reason, however, why such services should be gratuitous, and in many situations it would form a profitable branch of practice.—*Colman's European Agricult.*

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### IMPORTANT TO BLACKSMITHS.

A correspondent informs us of a very useful discovery he has made in burning wood coal, and requests that we make it public. The improvement consists in the use of *ground bark* in the place of dirt, as a covering for the kiln. Our correspondent, who is a practical blacksmith, in communicating the result of his experiment, says—"I covered with the old bark that had been used in tanning. I used leaves from the woods before the bark, the same as I would for covering with dirt—both leaves and bark should be made thoroughly wet. The advantages of this plan are: the kiln, if well set and well covered, will burn much sooner, will never "break out," leave fewer brands, and consequently turn out a larger quantity of coal. The coal is heavier, more thoroughly burnt, and entirely free from dirt.

So much impressed am I with the advantages of this method, that I would haul bark a distance of five miles rather than use dirt."—*Truth Teller.*

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### AGES OF POETS.

We find the following curious information in an exchange. It will be seen that poets have not been long lived, perhaps because the activity of their minds wears out their bodies. "Whom the Gods love die early," is a saying well adapted to the children of song. "Ariosto died at the age of fifty-nine; Burns died at the age of thirty-eight;

Byron at the age of thirty-six; Brainard at the age of thirty-two; Butler at the age of fifty-nine; Cowley died at the age of forty-nine! Collins at the age of sixty-nine Camoens at the age of fifty-five; Carter at the age of forty-two; Dryden at the age of seventy; Dante at the age of fifty-six; Fessenden at the age of sixty-six; Goldsmith died at the age of forty-four; Gray at the age of fifty-seven; Hogg died at the age of sixty-three; Hemans at the age of forty-five; Logan at the age of forty; Milton at the age of sixty-six; Metastasio at the age of thirty-four; Mellen at the age of forty-four; Moore at the age of eighty; Pope died at the age of fifty-six; Petrarch at the age of sixty-eight; Pollock at the age of twenty-nine; Rockwell died at the age of twenty-four; Shenstone died at the age of fifty; Spencer at the age of forty-six; Scott at the age of sixty-one; Thompson died at the age of forty-eight; Passo at the age of fifty-two; White at the age of twenty-one; Watts at the age of seventy-five; Woodworth at the age of about fifty: Young died at the age of eighty-four."

It will be seen the poets of a later day were the shortest lived—Burns, Byron, White and others.

*N. Y. Mirror.*

The average age of the thirty-four poets here mentioned is a fraction over *fifty-one* years! Ten lived over sixty years; others, over fifty years; and only *seven* died under forty years of age! If, upon this state of facts, it is proper to say "whom the Gods love die early," then the Gods have very queer notions about youth and age. An average age of fifty-one would make pretty old youth. These instances rather show that poets, like all literary men, are long-lived.—*W. Farm. & Gard.*

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*The Plaster Blackboard.*—Perhaps no greater improvement has been made in any of the appendages of the school room, than in that useful article the blackboard.

This improvement consists in the use of colored plaster instead of the painted board. It has many considerations to recommend it. The chalk is used upon it without noise. It is easily erased. There is no reflection of light, thus obstructing the sight; and last, though not least, it is very much cheaper than boards.

In erecting a building the black surface can be put on at a very trifling expense. It can be applied to an old surface with equal facility. Any common mason can apply it who knows how to use the "hard finish." We may do the cause of common schools an essential service by giving the following simple directions for "making the plaster blackboard."

First, wet a sufficient quantity of lamp-black with alcohol, to color the plaster to be used, and mix the coloring with the hard-finish, at the time of putting it on.

The lamp-black may be wet with sour beer instead of alcohol. If it be wet with water it will not mix uniformly with the plaster on account of the oily matter contained in it, and the surface will not dry uniformly black, but will have a spotted appearance.—*School Journal.*

*Preparation of Hemp—Momentous Improvement.*—We find the following in the New York Tribune.

We were shown on Saturday a specimen of Kentucky hemp prepared by a short and cheap process. It had the softness and fineness of raw silk. It was fine enough for the most delicate handkerchiefs. We were also shown other specimens of the hemp calculated for making all the goods for which flax is now used, and at less than half the present cost. The discoverer of this process, a gentleman of Louisville, is now here on his way to Europe, for the purpose of carrying out his plans. It is almost impossible to conceive the immense importance to the hemp-growing regions of this country of a discovery which will enable us to manufacture the finest as well as the coarsest linen from this production of the west. Our importations for linen goods for last year amounted to about $7,000,000, the whole of which, if this improvement is practicable, will be retained at home in future, and flow into the pockets of the hemp-growers and manufacturers, and the thousands to whom they will be thus enabled to give steady employment.

*The Wheat Crop of* 1845.—The wheat crop of the United States for this year is estimated at 125,000,000 of bushels. The wheat crop of 1842, which was the largest ever previously raised in this country, was 103,000,000. The increase of 22,000,000 shows not less the large additional amount of land brought under cultivation than the genial character of the last summer. The crop of Michigan is comparatively larger than that of any other State in the Union. With a population of not over 400,000, she raises this year at least 7,000,000 bushels of wheat. The quality is also of the very best.

*Artificial Stone.*—The process by which this is made is to pulverize the flint, granite or marble used, and to work it up into a thick paste. This paste is placed in moulds of any design; and upon being subjected to the action of the heat of an oven, the contents of the moulds become vitrified. Thus the most compact and beautiful designs in slate, granite or marble are produced, applicable alike for ornament or for substantial purposes. It withstands all atmospheric changes, and is as durable as flint.

*A Mine of Historical Riches.*—The library of David B. Warden, formerly American Consul at Paris, which was bought by the New York legislature, has reached Albany. The Journal says the collection embraces the full history of the exploits of the early Jesuit missionaries, of the first settlement of our north-western territories—now States, by the French adventurers, and, in fact, that of nearly every State and territory in the Union, from its discovery.

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